

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

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Office of:

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Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/12/13

July 31, 1984

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Nordhaus Hattom & Taylor

Mr. Robert N. Broadbent  
Assistant Secretary for Water & Science  
Department of the Interior  
18th & C Streets, N.W.  
Room 6660  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Broadbent:

This letter follows my telegram to you on Friday, July 28, 1984, concerning the Pueblo of Laguna's request for extensive participation on the part of the Water Resources Division/U.S.G.S. in resolving the groundwater recovery level issue which is part of the overall environmental impact statement being prepared on the Jackpile open-pit uranium mine. We originally made our request for assistance through Assistant Secretary Carruthers who in turn discussed the problem with you and your staff. As we discussed with him, the Pueblo's assessment of the problem is as follows:

- (1) Anaconda Minerals Company contracted with Dames & Moore for a groundwater modeling study; and
- (2) The Department of Interior has not prepared an independent groundwater study; and
- (3) The co-lead agency (Bureau of Indian Affairs) has consistently and expressly pointed-out the need for WRD's input; and
- (4) The Pueblo has requested that an evaluation of the Dames & Moore study be performed by WRD so that the Pueblo could be assured that the conclusions reached by Dames & Moore especially with regard to projected the groundwater recovery levels in each of the three (3) major open-pits which constitute the Jackpile-Paguate uranium mine.

As a result of your coordinated efforts, WRD is now participating; however, at a recent meeting Mr. Jim Daniels advised all interested parties that WRD could not validate or verify any of



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data inputs provided by Dames & Moore; and, moreover, WRD would only vary the parameters if time permitted. It is the Pueblo's estimation that little, if anything, will be accomplished within the time frame that WRD is currently working under. Further, without any expressly stated position by WRD on behalf of the Pueblo of Laguna, we feel that the Secretary of Interior will be unable to exercise his trust responsibility on behalf of the Pueblo, i.e., he will not have a basis for an opinion on this critical issue. The enclosed Resolution (No. 49-84) of the Pueblo of Laguna Council sets out our concerns and requests a timely response.

It is with the utmost respect that we request your best efforts in this regard. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

*Vincenti Pedro, Sr.*  
Vincenti Pedro, Sr.  
Governor

VP/RJS:lv